

Benjamin Wilson Smith Papers

L146
1858-1949
1 mss. box

Rare Books and Manuscripts Division
Indiana State Library

Processed by: Barbara Hilderbrand, January 2007
Finding aid revised by: Bethany Fiechter, 2015/10/30

Biographical Note:

Benjamin Wilson Smith was born January 19, 1830 in Harrison County, Virginia. He graduated from Indiana Asbury, now DePauw University, in 1855 and married Ruth Anne Rankin that same year. He moved to White County, Indiana in 1846 where he worked as a teacher, college professor and merchant. He was a professor of ancient languages at Cornell College in Iowa 1855-1857. He worked at public schools in Manchester, Aurora, Valparaiso, Knightstown, and Porter County. He was a Delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1872. He served in the Indiana House of Representatives from 1883-1887. He was the Lafayette, Tippecanoe County Postmaster 1889-1893 and the State examiner of Public Schools in 1909. Benjamin Wilson Smith died October 13, 1921.

Source:

Rebecca A. Shepherd ... [et al.], eds. A Biographical directory of the Indiana General Assembly v. 1. Indianapolis: Select Committee on the Centennial History of the Indiana.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection includes Smith's writings about the history of Warrick, Spencer, and White Counties, Indiana and Harrison County, West Virginia, Manchester Academy and the postal system. Also included are his accounts of a trip from Virginia to White County in 1846 and an autobiography. Also, his scrapbook of clippings and notes on politics, his advice to students in Dearborn County, Daughters of the American Revolution applications for his family, correspondence with his daughter regarding family history, and papers regarding the Civil War service of his brother-in-law Oliver Smith Rankin.

Box and Folder Listing:

1 Box .

Folder

1. Scrapbook, 1856-1860
 2. Papers, 1858-1893
 3. Papers, 1893
 4. Papers, 1897-1899
 5. Papers, 1900-1914
 6. Papers, 1916-1949
 7. Papers, undated
 8. Composition Book
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Collection Information:

Size of Collection: 1 manuscript box (123 items)
Collection Dates: 1858-1949
Provenance: Tippecanoe County Historical Society, 1952 and Dr. William M. Reser, 9-15-1934
Access: This collection is open for research.
Restrictions: None
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Alternate Formats: None
Related Holdings:
Notes:
